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<b>Weather Forecast</b>		<b>Friday</b>		<b>High:69 Low:46</b>
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>High:75 Low:49</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
				<b>High:72 Low:47</b>

**FRIDAY**

# Fort Riley Post




**From old to new again**  
SFC Nancy Powell, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division, has an interesting hobby, she makes the old into new again.

See Page 11

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**If you receive a suspicious letter or package, what should you do?**

- 1 Handle with care. Don't shake or bump!
- 2 Isolate and look for indicators
- 3 Don't Open, Smell or Taste
- 4 Treat it as Suspect. Call 911

Source: FBI

## Anthrax investigations continue across U.S.

*By Christie Vanover*  
Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and FBI are investigating exposures and potential exposures of anthrax in several states.

Many communities around the country, including Fort Riley, have reported suspicious mail concerned it may contain anthrax spores.

As of Wednesday morning, Fort Riley officials had responded to half a dozen reports, all of which were false alarms.

"About 50 percent of the incidents were in residential areas and the other 50 percent in non-residential," said John Boyd, Fort Riley fire chief.

"Since Oct. 1, the FBI has responded to more than 2,300 incidents or suspected incidents involving anthrax or other dangerous agents," FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III, said in a press release Tuesday.

His agency and the CDC are continuing to investigate at American Media, Inc. and the Boca Raton Post Office in Fla.; ABC and NBC studios and Governor George Pataki's office in New York and Senator Tom Daschle's Office in Washington, D.C.

Anthrax, caused by spore-forming bacteria, is a rapidly progressing infection that can be contracted through the skin, by consuming contaminated meat or by inhaling bacteria or spores, according to the official Department of Defense anthrax website.

"The greatest threat with the most deadly consequences comes from inhaled anthrax," according to DoD. A 73-year-old Florida man died after he was diagnosed with this form of anthrax earlier this month.

According to a recent CDC Health Advisory, people should not panic because the disease can be prevented after exposure by early treatment with appropriate antibiotics. Additionally, it

is not spread from person to person.

Although still under investigation, it appears the spores were transported to their intended destinations via the mail. The FBI is testing, analyzing and comparing powders from the letters sent to Tom Brokaw and Daschle's office.

Anthrax spores are odorless, colorless and tasteless; therefore, to avoid potential contact with contaminated or harmful letters or packages, Fort Riley has taken prudent measures to protect its soldiers, civilians and family members.

Mail handlers are trained to spot suspicious packages by looking for key characteristics, which the U.S. Postal Service and FBI have deemed appropriate.

Some of these include: excessive tape, oily stains, protruding wires, misspelled words, excessive postage and an unknown or missing return address.

"The first thing someone should do if they suspect a letter or package, is to put

it down, leave the area and call 911," said Boyd.

Trained Fort Riley emergency crews will respond to the scene to examine the victim and suspected item.

"If we determine that the item could be hazardous, we triple bag it and send it out for testing," Boyd said.

Of the six cases he and his crew have responded to so far, none were hazardous.

The incidents and suspected incidents the FBI has responded to were mostly false alarms or hoaxes.

While every threat has not turned up positive, Mueller said every threat is taken seriously. "We have no choice but to assume that each reported instance is an actual bio-threat."

Fort Riley is treating each report with the same seriousness and urgency.

The FBI has not found any direct links to organized terrorism.

See Anthrax Page 6

## Anthrax continued from page 1

An anthrax vaccination plan that involved vaccinating the entire United States Armed Forces through phased immunization program between now and 2005 was approved in May 1998 by Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

According to DoD, the vaccine is currently only designated to specific military units and personnel involved in research due to a limited production capacity. It is not available to health care

providers or the general public.

"The likelihood of getting pulmonary anthrax is extremely low," said Capt. Robert Russell, chief preventive medicine, "and virtually no one dies of cutaneous anthrax. Once the symptoms develop to the point you know it's anthrax, you treat it and it's curable."

If someone is exposed, CDC and Fort Riley health officials have antibiotics readily available that can prevent the disease. The

Food and Drug Administration has approved three antibiotics for treatment: Penicillin, Doxycycline and Ciprofloxacin.

"I understand that many Americans are feeling uneasy. But all Americans should be assured: We are taking strong precautions, we are vigilant, we are determined, the country is alert, and the great power of the American nation will be felt," said President George W. Bush in his radio address to the nation Oct. 13.